

Supplement to Connecticut Driver's Manual with New Laws for 16- and 17-Year-Old Drivers That Take Effect August 1, 2008

This information updates various related matters found in the driver's manual. New teen driving laws pertain to both 16- and 17-year-old learner's permit holders and newly licensed drivers.

New for Learner's Permit Holders

Curfew	Training Requirements	Passenger Restrictions
<p>No Curfew</p> <p>However, permit holders must be accompanied by a licensed instructor, parent(s), legal guardian or qualifying adult.</p>	<p>All Learner's Permit Holders Who Obtain a Permit <u>ON OR AFTER AUGUST 1, 2008</u></p> <p>In addition to classroom work, permit holders need at least 40 hours of behind-the-wheel training before applying for their driver's license. Also, parents or legal guardians are required to complete a two-hour class concerning teen driving laws.</p>	<p><u>ALL LEARNER'S PERMIT HOLDERS REGARDLESS OF WHEN THEY RECEIVED THE PERMIT:</u></p> <p>For the entire time a driver holds a learner's permit, he or she may not have any passengers except for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A licensed driving instructor giving instruction OR ▪ His or her parents or legal guardian, at least one of whom holds a valid driver's license OR ▪ One person who is providing instruction and is at least 20 years old, has held a driver's license for four or more consecutive years and whose license has not been suspended during the four years prior to training. <p><i>Please note: These restrictions before or after August 1 do not apply during the actual time when a learner's permit holder is receiving specific instruction from a licensed driver instructor from a commercial driving school or driver education program.</i></p>

New for Restricted 16- and 17-Year-Old Driver's License Holders

	Curfew	Passenger Restrictions
<p>Restricted 16- and 17-Year-Old Drivers Who Receive a Driver's License <u>ON OR AFTER AUGUST 1, 2008</u></p> <p>(Those receiving a license prior to August 1, 2008 are subject to the passenger restrictions and curfew in place at that time.)</p>	<p>11 p.m. to 5 a.m. - unless the teen is traveling for employment, school, religious activities, medical necessity, or if the individual is an assigned driver in the safe ride program.</p>	<p>During the first six months the newly licensed driver may not have any passengers in the vehicle except for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A licensed driving instructor giving instruction OR ▪ His or her parents or legal guardian, at least one of whom holds a valid driver's license OR ▪ One person who is providing instruction and is at least 20 years old, has held a driver's license for four or more consecutive years and whose license has not been suspended during the four years prior to training. <p>During the second six months (months seven through twelve) the only additional passengers allowed in the vehicle are members of the driver's immediate family.</p>

In addition to the laws above, learner's permit holders and 16- and 17-year-old licensed drivers may NOT:

- Transport more passengers than the number of seatbelts in the vehicle.
- Operate any vehicle that requires a public passenger transportation permit or a vanpool vehicle.
- Use a cell phone (even if it is hands-free) or mobile electronic device while driving.
- Transport any passenger on a motorcycle for six months after the issuance of a motorcycle endorsement.

Please Note: These restrictions do not apply to persons who are active members of a volunteer fire company or department, a volunteer ambulance service or company, or an emergency medical service organization who are responding to an emergency call or carrying out duties as an active member.

New Penalties for 16- and 17-Year-Olds

Seat Belt Law Violations

Effective August 1, 2008, drivers 16- and 17 years-old and each of their passengers are required to wear a seat belt. If either the driver or the passenger fails to wear the seat belt, each could be cited for a seat belt violation and fined \$75 (current fine is \$15).

48-Hour License Suspension for Certain Violations

Under the new law, effective August 1, 2008, 16- or 17-year-olds who commit certain moving violations will have their drivers' licenses seized by a police officer and will be suspended for 48 hours. In addition, the police officer is

authorized to remove the vehicle from the scene. Sixteen and 17-year-olds face an immediate suspension penalty if they are cited for:

- Violating any of the driving restrictions that apply after licensure.
- Driving 20 miles per hour or more above a posted speed limit.
- Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Driving recklessly.
- Racing a motor vehicle on a public highway.

The driver's license will be held for that 48-hour period. In order to regain possession of the license after the 48-hour

period, the teen and his or her parent or legal guardian must go to the police department and sign a written statement acknowledging the license has been returned.

Driver Retraining

Effective August 1, 2008, additional offenses will trigger participation in the program.

Anyone age 24 or younger who commits two or more moving violations or suspension violations (or combination thereof) must complete the DMV-certified driving retraining program.

The new offenses that could require a 16 or 17-year-old driver to take the retraining program are:

- Driving in violation of learner's permit requirements.
- Driving in violation of Graduated Driver's License Laws (such as passenger restriction and driving curfew laws).
- Using a cell phone or other mobile electronic device outside of permitted uses. By law, drivers under 18 cannot use a cell phone or mobile electronic device, even if it is "hands-free."

Drinking and Driving (Administrative Per Se) Penalties

Effective August 1, 2008, the administrative license suspension for a 16- or 17-year-old who drives under the influence of alcohol will be no less than one year if he or she

submitted to the test or analysis and had an elevated Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) equal to or over .02. If the 16- or 17-year-old refuses to submit to the test, the suspension will be 18 months. Currently, the suspension period is not less than 6 months.

Youthful Offender Status

Under the new law, effective August 1, 2008, someone under the age of 18 who commits the following cannot be considered a youthful offender:

- Negligent homicide with a motor vehicle.
- Evading responsibility following an accident that results in a death or serious injury.
- Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

In addition, under the new law, effective August 1, 2008, any youth adjudicated as a youthful offender for the following offenses shall have their records disclosed to DMV for the purposes of imposing a driver's license suspension:

- Reckless driving
- Operating while under suspension
- Evading responsibility following an accident involving property damage or non-serious injury
- Street racing
- Disregarding a police officer's signal to stop

Other New Suspensions for 16- and 17- Year- Old Drivers

The following table explains the new suspension violations for 16- and 17-year-old drivers, effective August 1, 2008. DMV will suspend the driver's license of a 16- or 17 year-old for any conviction of violating a teen driving restriction, speeding, reckless driving, street racing or using a cell phone or text messaging device while driving.

VIOLATION	1 ST OFFENSE	2 ND OFFENSE	3 RD OFFENSE
<i>GDL violations under §14-36g(a) including:</i> (1), (2)-passenger restrictions; (3)-operating public service vehicle or vanpool; (4)-more passengers than seat belts; (5)-carrying passengers on a motorcycle less than six months after obtaining a motorcycle endorsement; (6)-curfew	30 Day Suspension \$125 License Restoration Fee Court fines	(For all 2nd and subsequent offenses) 6 Month Suspension or until 18, whichever is longer \$125 License Restoration Fee Court fines	
<i>Use of Cell Phone/ Text Messaging</i> §14-296aa	30 Day Suspension \$125 License Restoration Fee Court fines	90 Day Suspension \$125 License Restoration Fee Court fines	6 Month Suspension \$125 License Restoration Fee Court fines
<i>Speeding</i> (20 mph over) §14-219	60 Day Suspension \$125 License Restoration Fee Court fines	90 Day Suspension \$125 License Restoration Fee Court fines	6 Month Suspension \$125 License Restoration Fee Court fines
<i>Reckless Driving</i> §14-222 (a)	6 Month Suspension \$125 License Restoration Fee Court fines or imprisonment of not more than 30 days, or both	1 Year Suspension \$125 License Restoration Fee Court fines or imprisonment of not more than one year, or both	1 Year Suspension \$125 License Restoration Fee Court fines or imprisonment of not more than one year, or both
<i>Street Racing</i> §14-224(c)	6 Month Suspension \$125 License Restoration Fee Court fines or imprisonment of not more than 1 year, or both	1 Year Suspension \$125 License Restoration Fee Court fines or imprisonment of not more than 1 year, or both	1 Year Suspension \$125 License Restoration Fee Court fines or imprisonment of not more than 1 year, or both